

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
28 April 2005 (28.04.2005)

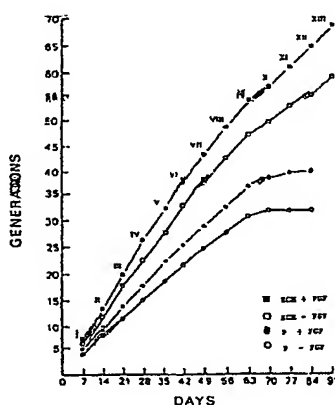
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/037144 A3**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61L 27/34**, 27/44, A61F 2/14
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/032934
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 October 2004 (07.10.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/510,359 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003) US  
60/510,349 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003) US  
60/510,350 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:  
— with international search report  
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR GROWING CORNEAL ENDOTHELIAL AND RELATED CELLS ON BIOPOLYMERS AND CREATION OF ARTIFICIAL CORNEAL TRANSPLANTS**



(57) Abstract: This invention discloses methods to attach and grow a monolayer of cultured human corneal endothelial cells onto the endothelial side of the stroma synthesized from biopolymer to generate a more bio-equivalent artificial cornea. The approaches will include the use of attachment and growthpromoting agents such as fibronectin, laminin, RGDS, collagen type IV, bFGF conjugated with polycarbophil, and EGF conjugated with polycarbophil. The patent also describes a method to create a self-sustaining polymer containing adhesive molecules and growth factors to support the attachment and proliferation of cultured human corneal endothelial cells for corneal transplantation either as a half thickness device or full-thickness button replacement. An approach for the implantation of cultured retinal pigment epithelial (RPE) cells into the sub-retinal space for treatment of age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) is disclosed in this invention. This method will enable the delivery of the transplanted RPE in a sheet of monolayer cells and will be better suited to perform their physiological function.



**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**

14 July 2005

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*